

DAILY REPORT FROM THE SPACE 1999 FESTIVAL, LONDON, EARTH

association of autonomous astronauts

space:1999

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★ *ten days that shook the universe*

JUNE 26th



**Protest against the
1986 Outer Space Act.**



We are protesting today against the UK's 1986 Outer Space Act. This protest takes place in front of the British National Space Centre, an organisation which promotes British government space interests. The 1986 Outer Space Act stipulates that any activity in outer space, including the launching and operating of spaceships, must be licensed and regulated by the government (if these activities are carried out by UK nationals or within the British Isles).

The Association of Autonomous Astronauts, a world-wide network of independent and community-based space exploration groups, demands the abolition of this law. We also refuse to purchase a license for any spaceships we have now or will have in the future (each license costs £6,500).

The 1986 Outer Space Act demonstrates that the British state intends to extend its power into outer space. This power is not only concerned with regulating the launching and use of spaceships, but also aims to replicate in space the same conditions and social relations that dominate life in Britain today.

Whilst the British government will try to justify the Outer Space Act on the grounds that it is necessary for it to carry out health and safety checks on all spaceships (as if we are not capable of taking our own safety precautions), we understand that this law will be used to maintain the state, corporate and military monopoly of space travel. Just like all their other laws, the British government's Outer Space Act will attempt to fix the limits for life here on earth.

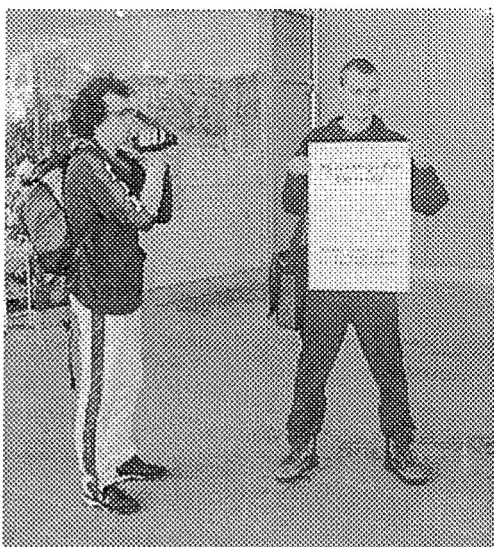
NO BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN SPACE ABOLISH THE 1986 OUTER SPACE ACT

ALL POWER TO THE ASSOCIATION OF AUTONOMOUS ASTRONAUTS

The Association of Autonomous Astronauts is a world-wide network of independent, community-based space exploration groups. Anyone is able to get involved, either by joining a local group or starting their own.

Contact :— email: aaa@uncarved.demon.co.uk / website: <http://www.deepdisc.com/space1999>
post: AAA, BM Box 3641, London, WC1N 3XX

The AAA has made its first contact with an alien civilisation. An AAA representative was granted a meeting with 'Pippa' from the British National Space Centre (BNSC). The meeting took place in the reception area in the building where the BNSC has its offices, and only one AAA member, and no video camera, was allowed through the tight security (although during the meeting a two year old Inner City AAA delegate did successfully storm the building). The meeting was polite and friendly, although some problems in communication were encountered. Whilst the AAA insisted that the 1986 Outer Space Act is an example of government control and regulation of space exploration, Pippa responded that their concern is only with ensuring that any activities in outer space are carried out for peaceful purposes. Obviously in this situation she was having to express the official line, and the AAA hopes that it is through encounters like this with those who work within the state, corporate and military space sectors that the idea of independent, community-based space exploration will have an effect, if only on the level of making those working there realise that their activities are being challenged and questioned.



UPCOMING SPACE 1999 EVENTS:

Saturday 26th:

2pm: Intergalactic Triolectic Football Cup
(Three-sided Football)
Kennington Park. Oval Tube

4pm: Intergalactic Conference - The Second Stage
A public discussion of the events and issues raised during the festival. Featuring Andrea Mu B (AAA Trento) and other speakers to be confirmed.

Venue: Kennington Park Community Centre, Harleyford Street, SE11, Oval Tube

All-night Rave in Space.

Venue confirmed. Call festival hotline (0793 083 4904) for details.

Sunday 27th:

3pm: Back to Earth: A review and summing up of the ten days and a look to the future.

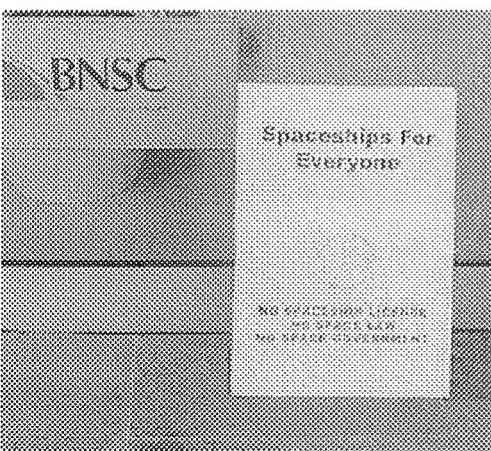
Venue: 56a Infoshop, 56a Crampton Street, SE17.
Elephant & Castle tube.

"The Five Year Plan:

Propaganda and printed matter from the Association of Autonomous Astronauts."

Open daily from 1pm - 6pm throughout the festival.
Event updates, information and your input.

Info Centre, 123A Mare Street, EB.
Bethnal Green Tube, buses 26, 48, 55, 106, 253.



Space Caff

Last night autonomous astronauts and their friends and families met for a relaxed space meal, beverages and zero gravity music (provided by the Disconauts) at 56A Info Shop. The food was excellent, prepared by Elvina, and featured cosmic pasta in the shape of spaceships, shooting stars and tiny (autonomous) astronauts.

Although the music was cut short because the bloke who owned the record decks needed them for a party in Peckham, we still enjoyed the opportunity to chill out after the hectic, heady eight days of Space1999 autonomous astronautical activities. Already close to burn out, AAA delegates had the opportunity to recharge their batteries for the final assault during Saturday and Sunday.

Since the AAA has evolved into a social movement that can attract people from a variety of backgrounds, events like this also afford the chance for people to get to know each other more. The AAA has always insisted that there could be a danger for autonomous astronauts to base their identities on their activities as AAA members. Each of us has a whole universe of possibilities waiting to be discovered.

Some of these possibilities may be touched on at the Stage Two Intergalactic Conference.

Kennington Park - The Home of the first Triolectic Football Cup

A short one hundred and fifty years ago Kennington Common, later to be renamed Kennington Park, was host to a historic gathering which can now be seen as the birth of modern British democracy. In reaction to this gathering, the great Chartist rally of 10th April 1848, the common was forcibly enclosed and the Victorian Park was built to occupy the site. What is important about this site is not the physical aspects of its layout but the traditions of its usage, a usage which arises from its unique position in South London. It is here that the road from Buckingham Palace to Dover crosses the older road from the City of London to Portsmouth. It was the last common before the centres of power moved to the north of the river, particularly Parliament. It was first recorded as a common on Rocque's 1746 map of London, but it must have been crucial as a public meeting place long before that. The southbound highways date from pre-Roman times when a fork in a major road was considered to have magical significance.

Kennington Park is an important site for anyone who values democracy — at the time of writing there isn't even a commemorative stone. Kennington Park still needs to be put on the map as a site of international significance.

Stefan Szczelkun. 9-9-97.

Extracts from 'Kennington Park birthplace of People's Democracy'



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